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May 6, 2004

Patent Examiner Alain L. Bashore
Group Art Unit 3624
Office of Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RE: Patent Application No. 09/934,411; Confirmation Number: 8421;
Response to Office Action

Dear Mr. Bashore:

We the undersigned Joint Inventors as to the above patent application, have received your Office action mailed 02/17/2004.

Please be advised that we are now preparing a reply thereto. We project being able to file this reply on or before June 17, 2004, i.e., within one month after the three months from said mailing date for such response.

We are aware that it will be necessary to file a request for extension of time for that reply. We are also aware that the fee for that extension of time applicable to ourselves, as a "small entity", is \$55.00.


It is our understanding that such a request may accompany the reply itself, when filed within the extension period requested, in other words, that no formal document or form need be filed before the end of the original three-month period in order to qualify for said extension.

We also have concluded that the only documents necessary to be filed together as to the projected reply are:

- the Amendment/reply itself
- a Petition for Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136(a)
- a calculation of fee form
- a Fee Transmittal form
- check/money order in the amount of \$55.00
- a transmittal form

If either of these assertions is not correct, please advise us specifically at once, and state what exactly otherwise is required, and when. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Scott A. Heimermann


Stephen Danforth